



# SPARK GAP

Vol. 40, Issue 2, February 2023 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

## *ON OUR M.A.R.C.:*

Please join us this Saturday, 2/18 at 8 am for our monthly MARC meeting at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin.

I have been contacted by the Johnson County Prosecutor's Office regarding the planned MARC Open House and the Prosecutor's building. The Prosecutor has some reservations about the use of this building for an open house as they are in the process of enhancing Physical Security. I was told that "The area where you have your office is still utilized by us and contains items that cannot be viewed or visited by the public." Namely, the garage area is being used to store and search impounded vehicles, and also is being used for confidential file storage, more critically, confidential juvenile files that need to be isolated from non-County employees, and even County employees not requiring access. The garage area is likely to soon be secured by deadbolt locks and keys. Unfortunately, since the bathroom is located in the garage area, that will become restricted as well. That also means no cub meetings can be held in the garage as well. Because of this, the Board is recommending we cancel the Open House in March.

The March MARC Meeting will now be held at New Hope Church, 5307 W Fairview Rd, Greenwood at 8 am Saturday March 18 since we can no longer use the Garage Area at the Radio Room.

See you Saturday,  
73,  
Tim  
WC9G





## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

***Steve Carmean --- K9DY***

***Steve Curtis --- ND9C***

***Bob LaGrange --- N9SIU***

***Chris Read --- W9OQ***

***Rob Scheutz --- K9THR***

***Mike Smith --- KD9EDR***

## **N1IU-Silent Key**

We sadly report the death of longtime MARC member Jim Kerr-N1IU. Jim was a Navy veteran and an avid IU fan as indicated by his vanity call sign. Jim was a regular check-in on the Sunday night Net and contributed to Skywarn activations when he had weather conditions to report.



According to his obituary, which recently surfaced, Jim passed away October 23, 2022. His absence from the Sunday Night ARES Net had been a topic of discussion by Net operators for several weeks. This confirms that our weekly net is not just a check-in but a community of caring amateur radio operators.

Jim Kerr-N1IU was 88 years old.

..... Jack W8ISH

## W9HR Slick Tip for Programming Your FT-3DR/FT-5DR

### Display Both Call Sign and Repeater City Location On Your HT

I use the free ADMS programming software that is downloadable from the Yaesu website. It may not be as full featured as the commercially available software you have to pay for. However I've used both programs and I find can get more out of the free ADMS software than the fee-based software.

In particular, the free ADMS software doesn't have the ability to import repeater information directly from the RepeaterBook web site like you can with the fee-based software. Yes, that's convenient but it's limited in the information you can get into your HT. Unfortunately, you can't display *both* Call Sign and Repeater City Location on the radio display. You must choose one or the other.

### Why Is This Useful?

I will show you how this can be accomplished with the free ADMS Yaesu software. But first, why is this a useful feature? Well, if you are traveling in a distant region and want to know which repeaters are close by, you can read their Call Signs *and* City Locations right off your HT screen. This is particularly useful if you are traveling on vacation to a distant city. (Memory Banks are also useful for this but are beyond the scope of this brief.)

Let's go through a step by step procedure for how you can get a screen like the one shown.



**Step 1** – Go to RepeaterBook.com and sign in with a user account.

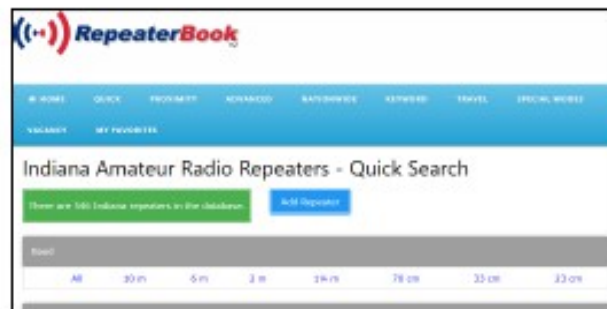
You must have a user account or the export will not work. It's free to sign up so it's not a big deal.

**Step 2** – Select the US state that has the area you are interested in.



In the example, I have selected Indiana with a point and click with my mouse.

**Step 3** – Click on Proximity Search.





**Step 4** – Input the City and State that will be the center of the distance perimeter.

You must also enter a radius, in miles from this location for the repeater search. In my example, I entered 25 miles.

You must also enter up to two bands of frequencies you are interested in. In my example, they are 2m and 70cm.

Click Search.

**Step 5** – You will now see a list of repeaters with their associated frequencies, tones, etc.

Go to the top of the page and pull down the Export menu. Near the bottom you will see Yaesu. Hover over that and select ADMS-11/14. This specifies the format for a csv file that can be imported into the free FT-3DR and FT-5DR ADMS programs.

City and State or grid square  
 Trafalgar, Indiana

-- OR COORDINATES --

Latitude:

DISTANCE (miles):

☒ mi ☐ km

BAND OR FREQUENCY

Band 1:

Band 2:

Proximity Search

25 repeaters found within 25 miles of [location]

Click on a header to sort. **Notes** Settings

Frequency	Offset	Tone	Name	View
449.0375	+2.0875 MHz	D98.5 / 1	Download	View
449.0750	+5 MHz	106.0 / 0	Download	View
449.7750	+3 MHz	88.5 / 0	Download	View
506.8350	-0.6 MHz	153.4 / 0	Download	View
443.5250	+5 MHz	153.4 / 0	Download	View
442.3000	+5 MHz	153.4 / 0	Download	View

Legend: ● On-Air ● Off-Air ● Test

Help: Wiki  
Airplane  
DMR  
DVB  
E1640  
GPRS  
to export:  
Name  
View  
Download  
File  
RT System  
Transitions  
Location  
Download  
Repeaters  
KNOX-1114  
KNOX-11

The image shows the top section of the RepeaterBook website. At the top left is the RepeaterBook logo, which consists of a blue speech bubble containing a red radio signal icon, followed by the text "RepeaterBook" in a stylized font. Below the logo is the "YAESU" logo in a large, bold, italicized serif font. Underneath the logos, the text "Export Parameters: FT-3 ADVMS-11 and FT-5 ADVMS-14" is displayed. Below this text is a form with several input fields: "Memory Name: 1" with a "Call Sign" dropdown, "Memory Name: 2" with a "Location City" dropdown, "Sort Order: 1" with a "Location City" dropdown, and "Sort Order: 2" with a "Name" dropdown. At the bottom of the form is a checkbox labeled "I agree to use this data for personal use only." and a "Download" button.

For Memory Name 1, specify Call Sign.

For Memory Name 2, specify Location City.

For Sort Order 1, specify Location City.

For Sort Order 2, specify None.

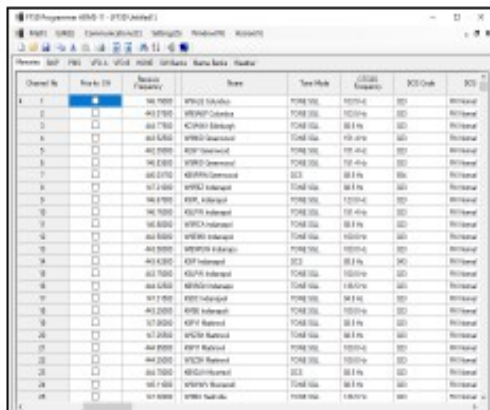
Give the file a meaningful name and download it.

**Step 6 – Start up your ADMS software.**

This can be either of the ADMSs for FT-3DR or FT-5DR. The csv file you saved will work for both.

Go to the ADMS import menu and specify the csv file you downloaded.

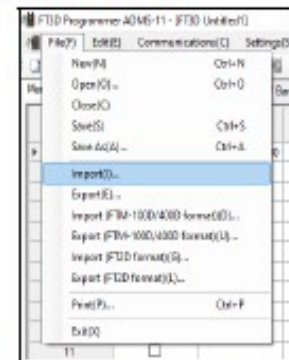
**Step 7** – You will now see the repeater information in the ADMS window.



Channel No	Bank	Frequency	Name	Mode	Power	Offset	SQL	SQL Code	SQL
1		146.7000	W9HR 146.700	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
2		146.7100	W9HR 146.710	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
3		146.7200	W9HR 146.720	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
4		146.7300	W9HR 146.730	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
5		146.7400	W9HR 146.740	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
6		146.7500	W9HR 146.750	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
7		146.7600	W9HR 146.760	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
8		146.7700	W9HR 146.770	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
9		146.7800	W9HR 146.780	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
10		146.7900	W9HR 146.790	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
11		146.8000	W9HR 146.800	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
12		146.8100	W9HR 146.810	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
13		146.8200	W9HR 146.820	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
14		146.8300	W9HR 146.830	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
15		146.8400	W9HR 146.840	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
16		146.8500	W9HR 146.850	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
17		146.8600	W9HR 146.860	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
18		146.8700	W9HR 146.870	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
19		146.8800	W9HR 146.880	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
20		146.8900	W9HR 146.890	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
21		146.9000	W9HR 146.900	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
22		146.9100	W9HR 146.910	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
23		146.9200	W9HR 146.920	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
24		146.9300	W9HR 146.930	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
25		146.9400	W9HR 146.940	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
26		146.9500	W9HR 146.950	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
27		146.9600	W9HR 146.960	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
28		146.9700	W9HR 146.970	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
29		146.9800	W9HR 146.980	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL
30		146.9900	W9HR 146.990	FM	5W	0.000	SQL	SQL	SQL

Note that both the Call Sign and the City Location is in the Name field. This is how it will appear on your radio display.

Note also that you sorted on the City Location field so this is the order that will appear on your radio screen. You will be able to move easily between repeaters in a given City Location with a twist of the selection dial because each City Location will be stored together – very convenient!



**Step 8** – You can now send the ADMS information to your radio.

I use a TF card for this but it can also be done with a cable – it's up to you. This procedure is described in the Yaesu user manual.

### Closing Comments

I mentioned earlier that using Memory Banks is useful for storing repeater frequencies for remote locations. I use four banks as I have four locations that I visit frequently. I should mention one caveat if you decide to do this. There is an extra step required using an export/import spreadsheet that is beyond the scope of this brief. I am happy to write that up too if anyone is interested.

I hope you find this useful. If you have any questions or comments I can be reached at:


[W9HR@outlook.com](mailto:W9HR@outlook.com)

-Doug W9HR



**Editor Note:** Jack Parker during the January MARC Meeting graciously accepted the duties of club historian. If you have any stories of MARC from years ago please see Jack about this and any photographs that you would like to share.





**You claim that  
you have  
stopped  
kerchunking  
the repeater**

**The lie detector  
has determined**

**That was a lie!**

KK4WH

**THINK SMALL...**



# PERFORM BIG!



**GO GONSET** *Sidewinder 2 Mtr.*

Here's coverage of the entire 2 meter band in four, one megacycle segments, operation on SSB, AM, or CW, and all packaged in a sharp little chassis only 9" wide, 5" high and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep.

The Gonset Sidewinder 2 meter transceiver is so compact that it's ideal for mobile as well as fixed station application. Separate 117 VAC and 12 V DC solid state power supplies snap on to the rear of chassis, or may be remotely positioned to simplify installation.

And look at some of the features Gonset builds in to provide top performance: complete push-to-talk operation, full 20 watts P.E.P. input, crystal latic filtering, vernier tuning, transistors at primary stages, stabilized VFO and high-sensitivity reception.

**SPECIFICATIONS \***

Frequency Range	143.975 to 148.025 MC
Modes of Operation	AM, SSB, CW
Carrier Suppression	50 db
Sensitivity	0.5 $\mu$ V for 10 db $\frac{S+N}{N}$
Selectivity	3.1 KC crystal bandpass filter
Output impedance	50 ohms
Audio Output	2.5 watts into 3.2 ohms
Antenna Input Impedance	50 ohms unbalanced

**NEW\* - from GONSET**

- Two new power amplifiers—model 903A for 2-meter, model 913A for 6-meter
- The GSB-201 Linear Amplifier—provides 2000 watts PEP(SSB) for 10 to 80 meter operation
- Gonset Sidewinder 6-meter SSB-AM-CW Transceiver with all the features of the 2-meter.

✱ Complete descriptions and specifications on all Gonset equipment is yours for the asking. Write to Dept. 73-7.

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For further information, check number 31, on page 106



**GONSET, INC.**  
A Subsidiary of GSPCO Eng. Assoc., Inc.  
1515 South Manchester Avenue, Anaheim, California

December, 1965 • CQ • 97

## **W9IMS ON THE AIR AT MARC MEETING**

The January 2023 meeting got off to a Fast Start with Dave Spoelstra-N9KT addressing the group via Zoom on the big screen.



Dave explained how the W9IMS special event station works to let the world contact the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the Indy Grand Prix, Indianapolis 500 and the Brickyard races each summer.

Dave is trustee for W9IMS which is the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club. They have been logging contacts for over 18 years as race fan, amateur radio operators world wide, want to reach out and touch the speedway during the week leading up to each race.



According to Dave the combined contacts will log close to 18-thousand each racing season. That is a lot of QSL cards.

*Every received QSL card is returned for each race. Hams who make contact during all three races receive an additional certificate. Each QSL card and certificate is custom designed for each race and season.*

Dave's talk is just one example of the great monthly speakers and topics scheduled for each MARC meeting.



*Story & photos by Jack W8ISH*

## **Subject:RE: [BARC Reflector] Flex User's Group, Monday, 13 Feb 2023**

Some information on Flex Radio Systems FYI:

The Government requires eight (8) Flex9600 Wideband high frequency transceivers and associated equipment including modems, mounting kits, time stamping licenses, tuners, and amplifiers.

The Government intends to negotiate a sole source award for the requirement with:

FlexRadio Systems  
4616 W Howard Ln Ste 860  
Austin, TX 78728

The products to be acquired are essential to the Government's requirements and other companies' products do not meet, or cannot be modified to meet the Government's needs. The Flex9600 boasts a 72kHz instantaneous bandwidth, compared to other HF radio competitors' 48kHz. This bandwidth appears to be the first of its kind in HF radios and opens up the arena to novel waveform development and experimentation at bandwidths not previously available in HF radios. The research these radios enable will be cutting edge in the world of waveforms for beyond-line-of-site communications in SATCOM-denied environments. The Flex 9600 boasts a 72 kHz instantaneous bandwidth and maintains compatibility with our existing software setups that use other versions of the FlexRadios that share a common application programming interface (API). Any other radio would require significant investment of time and resources in re-engineering interfaces and reliant on the vendor providing FULL API information, which many do not for proprietary data concerns.

### **CLUB DUES FOR 2023**

**It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.**

**Please check out the M.A.R.C. website and you may pay your dues via PayPal. This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.**

**This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2023.**

**Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer**



38th Annual Columbus



# HAMFEST

Sponsored by Columbus Amateur Radio Club

**Saturday, April 1, 2023**

**8:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Adult General Admission \$5.00**

**North High School Cafeteria**

**1400 25th Street | Columbus, IN 47201**

## Flea Market Space Available

\$10 per 8 foot table: fee includes table(s)

Set-up 6 a.m. Saturday, 4/1. Registration will be conducted at the door or in advance.

For registrations or more info, contact:

Mike Idlewine WE9MI

4373 E. Windsor Lane | Columbus, IN 47201

Please enclose  
SASE with advance

exhibitor registration or advance  
general admission. Advance  
registrations must be prepaid and  
postmarked by March 17, 2023.

Make checks payable to:

*Columbus Amateur Radio Club*

All-Indoor  
Flea  
Market

## VE TESTING: 9- 11 a.m.

Provided by SCICSG representing Laurel VEC, providing  
free VE testing since 1984.

Pre-Register at least 24 hours in advance by email:

Mike Tanksley W9MDT

w9mdt@arrl.net | 812-350-5175

Those with passing  
test scores will be  
entered into a  
drawing for \$100  
DX Engineering  
gift certificate

New  
Location!

Vending  
Machines  
Available

Free  
Parking



## Hourly Door Prizes!

Grand Prize is a ICOM 2730A Dual Band Mobile  
(Cash awarded to non-amateur winner)

## Columbus HAMFEST

Saturday, April 1, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Columbus North High School Cafeteria

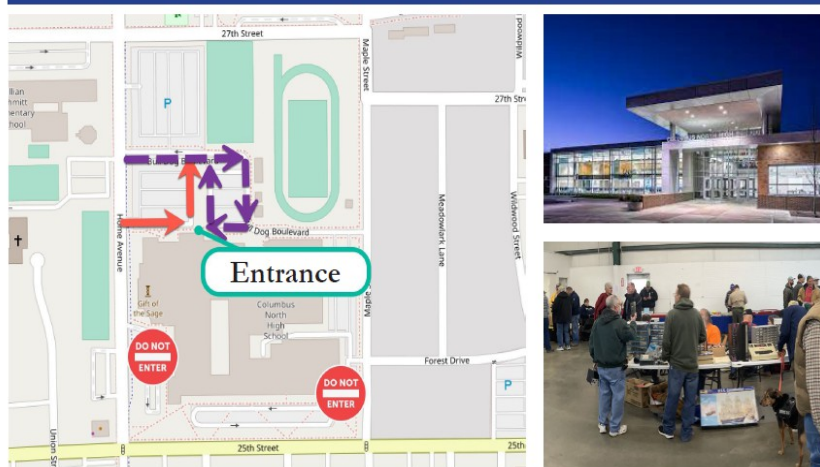
1400 25th Street | Columbus, IN 47201

Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Mike Idlewine

4373 E. Windsor L

Columbus, IN 47201



**Tune in to Columbus Amateur Radio Club**

Hamfest Talk-in 146.79 MHz (-600 kHz, PL 103.5 Hz)

<http://www.carcnet.net> | Facebook: Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

# Skywarn Spotter Training - Johnson County

**When** ---Thursday, April 13, 6pm – 8pm

**Where** --- Johnson County Sheriffs Training Center - 1061 Hospital Rd., Franklin, IN 46131

**Description** --- Public Spotter Training --- **No preregistration required**

## Frequently Asked Questions about Spotter Training Sessions

1. Do I need to preregister for these sessions? **Most of the time, no. All you need to do is arrive at the proper time and location.** *However, in rare instances, a county might request registration with their officials. Check the details of the session to see if preregistration is required.*
2. About how long do the sessions last? **Approximately 2 hours.**
3. Do I have to live / be a spotter in the county that I take the training session? **No. The training sessions are identical.**
4. Is there a fee to attend? **There is no fee to attend.**





## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month  
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

### W9MID Repeater:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

### W9MID Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM )

### Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G  
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H  
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU  
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y  
Club Historian – Jack Parker – W8ISH

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3rd week of the month.*



**Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.**

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